

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

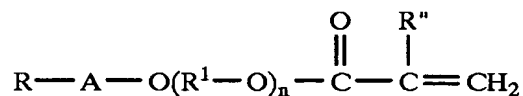
The amendments to the original claims are supported by the claims themselves and simply serve to clarify these claims. New claims 12-21 are supported by original Claims 1 and 9. No new matter has been entered.

Examiner Fortuna is thanked for the helpful and courteous discussions held January 9 and 11, 2007. As discussed, Applicants traverse the rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Wilkinson '120 or Wilkinson '120 in view of Applicants' specification is respectfully traversed. The monomers used in Wilkinson do not correspond to any of Applicants' monomers b1-b5.

The present invention as described in pending Claim 1 is directed to a method of making a membrane from a copolymer A comprising

- a) from 50 to 99% by weight of at least one N-vinyl lactam or N-vinyl amine selected from the group consisting of N-vinyl pyrrolidone, N-vinyl piperidone, N-vinyl caprolactam, N-vinyl imidazole, methylated N-vinyl imidazole, and N-vinyl formamide, and
- b) from 1 to 50% by weight of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of
 - b1) C₈-C₃₀-alkyl esters of monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
 - b2) N-C₈-C₃₀-alkyl-substituted amides of monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
 - b3) N,N-C₈-C₃₀-dialkyl-substituted amides of monoethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ carboxylic acids;
 - b4) vinyl esters of aliphatic C₈-C₃₀ carboxylic acids; and
 - b5) C₈-C₃₀-alkyl vinyl ethers.

The Official Action focuses, as did the personal discussions with Examiner Fortuna, on Wilkinson's disclosure of N-vinyl pyrrolidone and an alkylphenoxy polyalkylene glycol acrylate having the formula:



wherein R is an alkyl radical of from 5 to 20 carbon atoms, A is a phenylene radical, R¹ is a member selected from the group consisting of propylene, ethylene and mixtures thereof, R'' is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl, and n is an integer from 20 to 100;

See, e.g., col.3, lines 10-17 of Wilkinson. Contrary to the Examiner's position, this alkylphenoxy polyalkylene glycol acrylate is **not** a C₈-C₃₀-alkyl vinyl ether as claimed in element b5 herein.

For example, in Wilkinson's alkylphenoxy polyalkylene glycol acrylate the variable "n" must be at least 20, providing a substantial alkylene oxide chain, not an alkyl chain. Variable "A" is a phenylene radical,¹ not an alkyl radical. There simply is no relationship between Wilkinson's alkylphenoxy polyalkylene glycol acrylate and presently claimed monomers b1-b5, including monomer b5, a C₈-C₃₀-alkyl vinyl ether.

As none of the comonomers within present Group b has any relationship to the alkylphenoxy polyalkylene glycol acrylate of Wilkinson '120 that would negate patentability, whether alone or taken with the discussion at page 2 of the application, the rejection should be withdrawn.

¹ As defined at <http://www.answers.com/topic/phenylene>, phenylene is a bivalent organic radical, C₆H₄, derived from benzene by removal of two hydrogen atoms.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413-2220

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Richard L. Treanor

Registration No. 36,379